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WHAT MUST BE CONSIDERED.

In his remarks last Sabbath in the Tabernacle, Pres. Angus Cannon is reported to have said that "the Mormons will yet rule the world." Asked to explain, he would doubtless reply, in substance, that "he knows that the religion of the Latter-day Saints is the only heaven-inspired religion, that God is behind it and it must win its way until the nations of the earth accept it."

Now, that is the most essential matter which the commission which is to investigate Apostle Smoot's right to hold a seat in the senate of the United States, can possibly consider. On that very point hinges his claim to a seat. Compared with it polygamy is but an incident, a something which is not much above a police court investigation, a something which is of special concernment only because as held by Mormons it is one of the chief cements which hold the organization together.

But the other matter as it is revealed today is something which aims directly at the integrity of Republican institutions. The question, the main question for the committee to decide is whether or not it is admissible for a state that is ruled by a government which is the very opposite of a free Government, to send one of the high officers of this foreign Government to sit in the Senate of the United States and help to make laws for all the people of the United States. It will not do to claim that this phase of the question is merely a religious phase with which the civil government has nothing to do, that it is impossible to place the consciences of men on trial, that our Government was framed on the theory that every man's religion is sacred to himself, and he must not be disturbed in the exercise of his right to worship as he may please.

That is the theory with the limitation that in the exercise of his belief he must not trench upon the laws of the Republic or upon any right of his fellow men. This, of course, is necessary, else all manner of crimes might be committed in the name of religion and the perpetrators escape apprehension.

Neither will it do to say that Apostle Smoot was elected by the votes of both Mormons and Gentiles, for partisan prejudices are very strong in the United States, and the rule of partisans is to vote their ticket, no matter who the candidates

may be. It is not denied that for several years after the coming of the Saints to this valley, the government they organized and carried on was a pure theocracy. If in those days senators had been elected, the names would have been given out from the Bowery and the people would have voted for them. How much different, except in form, each different in fact was that from the way in which Smoot was elected in the Legislature? In the Bowery the people would have voted because it was the will of their chiefs to so vote. Was not that same thought the compelling one in the minds of every Mormon in the Legislature who voted for him?

The Mormon system, as explained from the first, is a dual system. First, "A Celestial kingdom;" second, "a kingdom of God on Earth." The first relates to a life after death, the second is a purely temporal government, which, as a thousand times expounded by every man who has ever been a President or Apostle of the Church in Utah goes directly to the daily business and politics of the Saints, and which absolutely controls their lives. It is necessarily so, for the whole structure of Mormonism rests on the claim that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that God delegated him to rule the earth and to convey God's will to man, and that by regular succession every President of the Church since his death has been endowed with the same attributes. Hence sincere Mormons can do nothing else except to obey. The average congressman is not a Saint, but there is not one of them who would dare to disobey the command or mere wish of another man if he believed that the other man was absolutely the vicegerent on earth of the Infinite God.

Hence the real point is, can this Government, within the free Government of the United States, and diametrically opposed to it in every claim and assumption, continue to send its most trusted officers to Washington, to sit by authority among the lawmakers of the Republic? If twenty-two more states were in the same way, our country would at once cease to be a Republic. It would become a kingdom, and its sovereign would reside at the corner of South Temple and State streets in this city.

GRIEF THAT WILL NOT COUNT.

The Butte Miner copies a part of an article from this journal, ignores the rest and then preaches a little sermon from the portion copied. It assumes that "an outrageous assault has been made upon Colombia," a "sister republic," and that "it has been robbed of the most important portion of its territory," and that "no justification can be found for that by recourse to the contest with the Indians for the possession of the American continent." Well, for the sake of argument, why not? The Miner says: "It was one of the exigencies of civilization that led to the invasion of the American continent by Europeans, and it was the progressive tendency of this civilization that resulted in the conflicts with the red men in which the latter were worsted." Is not that rather a strange and dangerous admission? Squarely stated it would read as follows: "The white men found the land; they coveted it; being better armed than the Indians, they took it; it was an exigency of civilization; what are you going to do about it?" Continuing in the same strain, the

Miner, in effect, says: "It is different when you come to the mongrels on the Isthmus of Panama. Not one in ten of those characterless scoundrels knows who his father was, for a trifling consideration the average Colombian and Panamanian would sell you his mother's marriage certificate; he is without pride of ancestry and he does not care a continental about posterity, but, say, that is a sister Republic, and we must grieve over that spoliation and make all the clamor possible about it up to—election day. After that our sympathies and our sense of eternal justice will suddenly cool. And though it is getting a little stale, we must still keep up our grief over 'the robbing of the Filipinos of their possessions,' for we are in a close place and must have some slogans for the coming campaign."

That is all very touching. The only trouble is there is no possible foundation for it all. Some years ago Panama joined the confederation of Colombia. But she made the reservation that she would withdraw whenever it seemed to her best interests to do so. The government of the United States was contemplating the construction of an inter-oceanic canal. Colombia wanted it built across Darien, and agreed upon the terms. Our Congress, after much debate, accepted the terms and a treaty was drafted putting those terms into effect and it was ratified by the Senate of the United States. It was sent to Bogota, where the Colombian Congress was in session. From that Congress it received nothing but contempt up to the day of adjournment. A few days later Panama, under her reserved rights, withdrew from the Colombian Confederation and declared herself an independent state. President Roosevelt at once recognized the new power, and was swiftly followed by the chief nations of the old world. At the same time he cabled to our naval commanders at Colon to keep the peace, as we are bound to do by an old Democratic treaty made in 1846. Further, when importuned by anxious Congressmen—Congressmen anxious to make a point against him, the President declared that there was no conspiracy, no bargain, no understanding with the men of Panama, through which they declared their independence. Had the President not done what he did the Democracy would now be berating him for a serious neglect of duty and we fear the Miner would be joining in the cry. For instance, suppose the President had not promptly moved and France had sent a fleet to Aspinwall to protect French property on the Isthmus, what kind of a fix, under the Monroe doctrine, would our Government have been in?

As for the Filipinos, when the islands were taken from Spain it was found that they were peopled by some thirty odd warring tribes, and that one tribe, the Tagals, sought the mastery and sought to put the rest down and make them slaves with all attending cruelties. They had to be put down. The soldiers and sailors of the United States did the work. Peace was restored, every man was guaranteed peaceful possession of what was his; he was further guaranteed protection and a chance to live and work and to have what he earned.

That is, the right thing was done, and neither out of the Philippines nor Panama can the Democracy get a war slogan for the campaign which the honest masses of this country will heed.